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GOOD MORNING – Bobby Schuller (BS) and Hannah Schuller (HS)

BS: This is the day the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it. Hello. Hannah is out of town this week. She is on a missionary trip, actually, with her brother Sam in Puerto Rico, so she felt called to go out there and pray for the sick, so it's been a little bit of a busy week for dad! It is not good that man should be alone, that's what the Bible says. Anyway, I got like four more days, but the kids are up here with me, anyway. This is Cohen and Haven. Hi guys. Nice to see you. And we're going to have church. You guys ready? Let's open with a word of prayer. Father, we thank you so much for all that you're doing in our lives, and we ask in Jesus' name for an outpouring of your spirit. We're gathering here to honor the name of Jesus, to say thank you for all that you've done and all that you're doing. Lord, I pray for breakthrough in the lives of everyone who feels burdened or pressed down this morning, they'd be lifted up and full of your spirit, and we ask for it in Jesus' name, amen.

HAVEN: Turn to the person next to you and say God loves you and so do I.

SCRIPTURE – Proverbs 16 – Haven Schuller

HAVEN: Proverbs 16, verse 21-24:

The wise in heart are called discerning and gracious words promote instruction. Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but folly brings punishment to fools. The heart of the wise makes their mouths prudent and their lips promote instruction. Gracious words are a honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones.

INTERVIEW – Michael W. Smith (MWS) and Bobby Schuller (BS)

Michael W. Smith is a Grammy and Dove Award-winning artist who has been creating music and performing for the last four decades. In addition to having sold over 15 million albums, he's an author who has written over a dozen books, including his newest title, *The Way of the Father: Lessons from My Dad*, Truths about God. This heart-warming book honors the legacy of his dad, Paul Smith, and reveals how he poured the love of his Heavenly Father on Michael at the times he needed it most. Please welcome, Michael W. Smith!}

BS: Welcome. So good to have you in the house.

MWS: Thank you. I really appreciate you having me on. Thanks.

BS: So many have loved your music, but for those who are maybe new to the program or new to faith, maybe tell us a little bit about your journey and your music.

MWS: I grew up in West Virginia; in a little Baptist church. My mom was church secretary and my dad was an oil refinery worker. Sports was a big thing in our family, but also wrote my first song when I was five. It was awful, but the fact that I created something at five and then I could play Beatles songs without any sheet music kind of astounded my mom and dad. So grew up singing, a lot of the youth musicals that were coming out back then, *Tell it Like it Is*, *Natural High*, *Ralph Carmichael*, that takes me back a long way. And then fifteen years of age I felt like there was a call of God on my life to explore this world of music and didn't know how to get there, didn't know what the rules were and found myself packing up an old beat-up Chevrolet and moving to Nashville, Tennessee, which was about six hours away from Kenova, West Virginia. And that was 1978, and I never went back. I mean I went back every three months to get some money, I was pretty poor back then. Two and a half years later met a girl named Amy Grant, started writing songs for her Age-to-Age record and found myself on the road opening up for her, and I guess after 34 records, the rest is history, on some level.

It's also the way the way you say it

BS: Wow. You know, art has not just been your music, but your writing, and I want to talk about this book that you have coming out called *The Way of the Father* where you're actually writing about your dad. So tell us a little bit about that and how it connects to the faith journey.

MWS: My mom and dad were just simply amazing. My dad went to heaven in November of 15. He had dementia and I still miss him terribly to this day. Bobby, he was the kindest man I'd ever known in my life who happened to be my dad. His glass was always half full, he laughed and smiled every day, he looked for the best in people, he was my baseball coach all growing up, and I refer a lot of the stories are told in the book. And he was my biggest fan when I decided that I didn't want to play for the Cincinnati Reds, that music was going to be a part of my life, and he kind of became my PR agent. I think the only time I ever saw him get mad was when my songs didn't go to number one. He couldn't quite figure that out. I would always tell him, I said dad, all my songs can't go number one, and he would say things like well why not, son? You're the best. He just affirmed me my whole life, and I say this in the book, I said I really do believe that my dad showed me what God is like on many levels because he was kind, he was patient, and he was for me my whole life, so I knew one day that I would write a book about him, but when he got dementia in 2011, I started to really start to recollect all those stories and all those memories, especially of us on the baseball field. And so 2020 was a great time to write a book, but it was the right timing and I think what's beautiful about the book is that, yes, there are these amazing, funny, hilarious, heart wrenching at times talking about my dad, but all these stories and I kind of make a reference to a promise of God, it sort of paints a picture of who God is like, so in each chapter I do that. It was a joy to write, and really happy with it. It's just honoring my dad.

BS: It's a wonderful book. You said in 2020.. so you actually wrote it during 2020 when everything was shut down and everybody was cloistered around? It must have been hard for you as a musician, you're so used to shows and big events and touring. That's even like kind of an adrenaline rush, I'm sure, to get up in front of thousands of people, even though they're worship things. I mean just makes an incredible electric energy to have that all kind of go away. It must have been a super shock for someone like you.

MWS: It was a little bit, but I found myself writing a lot of songs, obviously writing a book, but I found myself in the studio writing a lot, and obviously found some great wonderful time to be with my family, which I feel like I'm with them all the time anyway. But I did this 13 weeks in a row, I did sort of worship around the world, that was a real joy for me. I would do these concerts from my living room or from the farm or from my studio, and just kind of pour my life into people. It was the biggest shows I've ever done in my life. There'd be a million people tuning in on that one event like one particular night.

BS: That's what I'm getting at is you would do these.. so instead of going to the big live venues like a Honda Center or something, you have this camera but you still have this massive.. it must have been a weird experience, in a way, to like not see as many of the people but to know like oh my gosh, this is a huge audience.

MWS: Yes, you knew they were watching and so I would pray through every one of those episodes, I was just going God, let me just be in the zone; these people are hurting and they're confused and they don't have a lot of answers. There's a lot of people who don't have hope, and they're kind of in despair, so Lord, let me say the right things, let me sing the right things, and it was all just about just reaffirming people that you know what, you're going to be okay. We'll get through this. And so I've gotten tremendous feedback. I kind of wish I would have done it every weekend. Part of me wished I hadn't stopped, but obviously now things are kind of back in full swing, and it's nice to be back out on the road.

BS: Of course it was out of a lot of that that you wrote this book about your dad, and I think it's such a gift to so many people. What's the main take away that you really hope people read when they read this story about you and your father. Like what's the big encouragement that you would hope people would take from this?

MWS: Probably the Jeremiah passage that we're all familiar with: I have plans for you to prosper you. I could name all kinds of promises of God that the book talks about, but I would say it takes me back to a Brennan Manning quote, when I was a huge Brennan Manning fan, and his writing, but I remember one time, it reminded me of my dad, when he said that God not only loves you, but He actually really likes you and He's extremely fond of you. And that sounds exactly like my dad, and that sounds exactly like Abba, as well. That's the take away.

It's also the way the way you say it

BS: Your dad's love was strong for you, it was such a reflection of how God's love is for all of us, even if we didn't have a good dad or maybe grew up without a dad, that the whole time the Abba father loved us.

MWS: I refer to that, too, because there was a part of me when I wrote this book going there's going to be a lot of people out there that didn't have a good dad like my dad. I have so many friends who had so many abusive childhoods and my mom being one of them who was abandoned when she was eight years old and her three younger siblings by my real grandmother, who drove off and never came back. And my mom turned a corner; I think she had a real encounter with the Lord and just decided that was not going to happen to her family, and she's one of the godliest women I've ever known. There's a way out, there's a way to let God father or mother you if you didn't have a very good childhood. I know that beyond a shadow of a doubt.

BS: The book is called *The Way of the Father*. I really want to encourage you at home to get a copy of this book. You'll be super encouraged. Thank you, Michael, so much for joining us. We really appreciate your story and your heart for the Lord, and continue to write great books and great music.

MWS: Thank you very much. Appreciate it. Godspeed.

BS: Thank you sir, God bless you.

MWS: Thank you.

DECLARATION – Bobby Schuller

Would you stand with us? We're going to say this creed together as we do every single week. Hold your hands out like this as a way of receiving, let's say this together: I'm not what I do. I'm not what I have. I'm not what people say about me. I am the beloved of God. Its who I am. No one can take it from me. I don't have to worry, I don't have to hurry, I can trust my friend Jesus and share His love with the world. Amen!

MESSAGE – Bobby Schuller "It's also the way you say it"

Today we're going to continue on talking about the value of words, how words build others up and tear others down; how words can build you up and tear you down. Peter Drucker famously once said "culture eats strategy for breakfast." Now of course he's talking about organizational culture, but this is true in a family, in a ministry, in a business, in a team, that culture is the most important thing that will help you understand where your organization is going, not your vision, not your mission statement. Did you know that? I remember Sam Chand saying something like this, that everyone has a good vision. Everyone has a great mission statement. I promise you, if you find one of the worst organizations that you hate, you hate going there, you hate being a part of it, they have a great vision. I'm going to Google it later but my guess is the DMV has an amazing vision. But at the end of the day, it's not the vision or even the mission that drives a group, it's a culture. And that is not something that is easily defined, easily made or easily changed. I want to lead off from where I left off last week in talking about words, and that is the splashy-ness of words. That you cannot use words on others without getting a little bit on yourself. In the ancient world, they used to always say that cursing someone, like if you cast a spell on someone or cursed someone always came at a cost, and that cost was something was going to get on you, too. Even if it doesn't get on you, you don't think it does and you lash out at someone, I promise they're going to get you right back, some way or another. And that is the weird thing about the splashy-ness of words. In the same way that that negative happens, the positive happens, too. I promise you, if you choose to go out of your way to encourage five people today, you're going to feel encouraged. Most of those people are going to say something nice back to you, you're going to feel good as you're saying it, the positivity in the air is just going to go up. There's something really splashy about words, though splashy's a word I heard from my son; it's not in the dictionary, I don't believe, but we're going to use it, Haven. Splashy. Words are splashy. Anyway. When I went on humanitarian and missionary trips in high school and college, there were always big, big rules around words. Now when we're in America and you got air conditioning and pizza and TV and a car, you're not under the kind of pressures that you are when you're in a non-developed world and you've got dysentery or that hamburger that you ate a week ago is looking delicious because that's what you get instead of deep-fried grub worms. What happens is when you go on these trips as a westernized, privileged American kind of person that's coming from a place like Irvine, and you go somewhere else to help people, it's easy to become a crabby patty, you know what I mean by that? And so here were some rules that were in place for our team, and this was on every team I've ever been on, we had some kind of rules like this.

Number one rule was do not state the obvious. If its hot outside, don't say 'it's hot outside.' If the food doesn't taste good, don't say 'the food doesn't taste good.' Everybody knows that! And when you say it out loud, you could just feel everyone go ugh, it is hot outside. We used to say these things like no dark humor, and I love dark humor, just to be honest with you. I love any kind of humor. I love dark, I love bright, I love it all. But when you're on a missionary trip, or when you're in a tough situation, dark humor is not good. And because of that, we had repercussions for dark humor. If you put someone down, even jokingly, they got to invert the joke by appealing to a law that was in place in every team I was ever on, you just say aloud 'seven-up. Seven-up.' Seven-up means if someone said anything negative about you at all, and you invoke seven-up, they now have to say seven real compliments about you. This is especially good for men because men, especially teenage boys who are not men, really, love to put each other down. And they love even more to force their friend, and then if the friend like does like a compliment but it's like a back-handed compliment: 'you don't look as fat in that shirt' for example. 'You're not as ugly as you were yesterday.' They get to say seven-up, you got to start all over again! And believe it or not, these rules helped so much in keeping the morale, the vision, the culture of the team up; that we're not here for us, we're here to help hurting people who have it a lot worse than we do. We're here to bring insulin, we're here to bring eye-glasses, we're here to bring the gospel, we're here to help encourage children. We're not here on a vacation. It's not about me. And the way that you get through that stuff is making sure that your team is using the right kind of language, and when you do that, the value of the team stays up and it works. In fact you notice because when the rules are broken, it gets bad, quickly. I remember once when we were in Thailand and we were on, I don't even know what they're called, they're three wheeled.. it looks like if someone took a bus, like Frank Pym is a pym.. Frank, I don't.. Pym, the scientist from Marvel, Antman, turned a bus into like the size of like a Camry but still got the same amount of people on it. That's what it was like. Like a tiny little three wheeled bus with like 15 people on it. And we're all crammed, it's like a million degrees outside, and humid, and it's so smoggy in Bangkok you can see smoke everywhere. And this kid just kept out loud, super negative, breaking all the rules. Just like 'ugh, its hot out here. I can hardly breathe. Oh, someone stinks. Ugh, when are we going to get there.' And you could feel, like we got excited about, I forget what it was we were doing, but it was an important thing we were doing. And you could just feel it go ugh, like ugh. And people kind of started nodding and agreeing, yeah, and just the negativity on this bus just started to balloon. And our project director, who's the main, main head guy, who was Will Ferrell before Will Ferrell was Will Ferrell. This was like when I was 16. He looked just like him, tall, curly hair, hilarious guy, got on the bus and he told this kid, he was like, I forget the kids name but it was like cut it out! Stop it! You're bringing everybody down. And then there was like kind of a smirk about it, and then made a couple of jokes and everybody laughed and it made everybody feel better. Interesting, the other thing that we would do on these trips is at the end of every trip we affirmed every single person. It was called a hot seat. So every single person at the end, to like celebrate, would sit in the middle of a seat, and everybody spontaneously would go around saying what they appreciate about that person. What a gift that was. To leave a trip and being affirmed by your colleagues was such an amazing thing. When I always did that, I always wanted to be like a great leader, and every single trip I got in my hot seat, it was always like 'Bobby, you were so funny. You were so hilarious.' And I, believe it or not, hated that. And so the last trip I did in Panama, I was like I'm not going to be the funny guy on this trip. I'm going to be a real leader. I'm going to cast vision, I'm going to discipline, and bring down the law. I'm going to institute some things. You know what I mean? It's time to institute. And at the end of the hot seat, finally, when people are going around, it was 'Bobby, you were so funny on this trip. You were hilarious.' So I just learned to own that and just incorporate it into my leadership style. Because actually the Will Ferrell of Will Ferrell's was able to bring up the mood on the trip with one simple joke, and it helped. The main thing I'm getting across to you is the power of words in a team; the power of words in an organization and the ability that words have to create culture in a group: in your family, that just remember, whatever words you're saying out loud in a group of people is affecting the culture. Its either reinforcing the culture in a way, or it's shifting the culture, in a way, and that's why words are very, very important in whatever group that you're in. It's going to dictate your actions, its going to dictate morale, its going to cause people to leave that you don't to be there, or people you do want to be there. Its going to cause people to come that you don't want to be there or that you do want to be there. You see. Words are going to be constantly changing, so pay attention to what you're saying in your team. Whether you're a leader/follower, doesn't matter. You're going to have an impact.

That brings me to this reflection I want to show you that is one of the main big arcs in the Bible. There are little arcs, but there's a big, big arc. And it begins with the tower of Babel. You know the story of the Tower of Babel? Goes something like this. That after the fall in the garden, mankind becomes more and more evil, murderous, the abuse of children, the raising up of altars, war. Finally as it goes in Genesis 11, after the flood, God like basically does a re-roll with humanity and He's like we need to start this whole thing over with a really good group of people; with Noah's family. Of course it's just as bad as it was before, just as murderous. And so this one language nation begins to build a tower that they want to reach heaven, and it's working well. It's going fast, it's amazing looking, and its reaching heaven, and the Talmud actually says, it doesn't say this in the Bible, but that at the top of the tower they wanted to place a sword so that it was like they were literally stabbing God, or that they were at war with God. So the story goes in a way of understanding, that there was a unified opposition towards God and that this tower was to get as close to God as they could to effectively just be like to stab Him, right? God, in seeing this happen, the first weird thing that you think is like well why does God feel threatened by that. Heaven isn't in the sky, and God can't be stabbed. So is God threatened? Probably not. As a Christian, I view this story through the lens of God's love, that God loves these people too much to allow them to constantly be in a state of hatred, rebellion, whatever you want to call it. And so the curse or the punishment or whatever you want to call it, you remember what it is? He gives them all different languages so that they can no longer talk to one another. And now that they can no longer talk to one another the right way, they can no longer be unified. And this is an ancient way of understanding why the world is in conflict all the time is because these different nation states, it's not that they actually hate each other, it's not that they actually have borders or weapons or.. and by the way it is those things, but the ancient way of understanding is they just don't speak the same language. They just don't speak the same language. And that inability to talk to one another is the very thing that even to this day, according to this ancient understanding, that's the main thing that keeps war and fighting and disunity, that's what keeps it in place. And you can see why a bronze age ancient person would see the world in this way. First of all, there's an incredible power in unity, isn't there? I mean we all know that. When you're united, it's an incredible thing. One of my favorite times in this country; not favorite times, but an amazing time, think it's the only time I've seen this, was the worst time in my life in American history was 9/11. But do you remember, there were months after 9/11 where there was no Democrat or Republican or any of that. It was just everybody was like we're going to love each other, support each other. There was just something really good in the air. And looking back at that moment, or any kind of team, and maybe you had a moment in your country or in your culture or whatever, a moment where there was just an incredible amount of unity where everybody just put everything, all their differences aside, and were just totally unified, and it's just an amazing; it's not always good, but it's an amazing power! An amazing power. Genghis Khan, maybe the most evil person to ever live. Certainly he's in the top ten, choir. Top ten. I'll make a top ten list for you later. Hitler's on there. Anyway Genghis Khan, obviously but a genius when it came to conquest and military, and of course he employed Parthian tactics, which were these ancient Iranian horse archer tactics, Eurasian horse archer stuff to break up armies, but his whole thing was you've got to break up your opposition and then kill them. If they're unified, don't fight them. You got to get them to either fight each other or break them up. I'm sure its apocryphal speech, too, his sons, he took a bunch of arrows and he said when I die, you stick together. If you stick together, you can't break you. And he like tried to break the bundle of arrows. But if you split up, this is what will happen to you. So he goes bam, bam, bam, bam to the arrows. We know that, right? That there's just something about that power that if a group is broken up and infighting, they're easy to conquer, but if they're unified, it's very hard to defeat them. One way that this is accomplished in ancient understanding is language. That's why Esperanto came into being. You guys know what Esperanto is? I totally forgot about this until my daughter was showing me a language App. What's that language App? Duolingo. Is that what it is? With the bird? Fun app, if you want to learn a language, check out Duolingo. It's free. And they included in one of the languages you can learn Esperanto, and I was like Esperanto!? Esperanto was a language created by a genius idea, I think in many ways, it was as smart as it was stupid, actually. Maybe it's a better way of saying it. An ophthalmologist, I think a Polish ophthalmologist felt that the world, everybody's always putting so much effort into studying other languages when they travel, especially in a place like Europe. Not a large continent. It's like someone called Europe a peninsula made of peninsulas.

But when you think about how the United States and Europe are relatively the same size, but in Europe there's all these languages, and you want to travel, and even in his day, only I think a fifth of French people spoke French. His whole idea was what if there was a second language we all just agreed that we were going to learn, and that would be the language that we would communicate to each other. And his whole idea was if I can do this, I will achieve world peace. And you kind of have to love a heart like that. In an observation that even though it didn't work out for him, it's just kind of an interesting.. Dr. Zamenhof. Little did he know that that achievement would happen only about a hundred years later because of a town that's about thirty miles from here called Hollywood. Now everybody, almost everybody learns English as their second language and its useful. You know English is unique in that it, I think it's the first and only language to have more people speak it that are not native speakers, than those that are native. So there are one point five billion English speakers and only four hundred million of them speak English natively, isn't that interesting? And so that's because of, I think, Hollywood. Not only is everybody learning English, they're learning it with a California accent, which is amazing as a Californian. I remember being in Israel and I was talking to this bus driver who spoke Hebrew natively, and I asked him; he goes you know I love to speak English. I said how? He's like I learned it from.. oh what was that show? The military comedy show? M.A.S.H.! I learned it from watching M.A.S.H. He would just watch M.A.S.H. and he learned English from TV. I'm sure he was pretty smart. So you understand this Esperanto thing. You can see, too, like if you ever travel, just learning a little bit of that nation's language goes so far, even if you're an English speaker and most of the people there speak English, if you learn some of their language, just make a little effort, just watch how far it goes. One of my biggest surprises ever is that French people are nice. One of the first time I went to Paris, I was so nervous because I had heard from so many Americans that the Parisians and the French are rude. They're not rude, they're like New Yorkers! They're just busy. And what I sorted out was that very often Americans would go to Paris and never learn any French, never even think about what is the culture in Paris. So if you go into a bakery in Paris, the owner of the shop who's very proud of their shop, will in a very polite way say to anyone who comes into their shop, "bonjour, good morning." And every Frenchman or French woman who walks in will say "bonjour monsieur, bonjour." Everybody. Germans will do that, Dutch will do that, right? Everybody does that except Americans! If you go into Target today, someone's going to go "morning," and what are you going to do? You're going to grab your cart.. you're not even going to say anything. And so when we go into our patisserie in Paris, and bonjour, and you're like.. it's like.. its rude! It's like super rude. And so this is what I'm getting at.. this is what I'm getting at is that language, language is such a bridge builder. And what we lose sometimes in our value of communication is that even within English there's a way of communicating the language. Our language. That when we talk to each other, just because we're speaking English, there is a right way to speak to someone, and a wrong way to speak to someone. You know this because of text messages. If you try and work out something emotional in a text message, there's a way of saying stuff that you're like I better write ha, ha at the end of this text or they're not going to know that that's a joke. This is important because if you want to build your team, if you want to build up others as God has called us to, if you want to really love people, and I don't mean like just feel-good things for them, you really want to love them, you got to learn how to talk to people in a way that's loving. Talk to people in a way that's encouraging, forgiving, gracious and kind. Didn't Haven do a great job reading Proverbs? Thanks for doing that, Haven. Good job. Really. The Bible says in Proverbs, "the wise in heart are called discerning and gracious words, forgiving words, beautiful words," so grace "promote instruction. Prudence is a fountain of life to the prudent, but folly brings punishment to fools." Remember in Proverbs, the fool is almost always a reflection of a person of the way that they talk in foolish ways. "The heart of the wise make their mouths prudent and their lips promote instruction." And then I just love this last part: "gracious words are honeycomb, sweet to the soul and healing to the bones." This is why Jesus has some of His strongest rebukes for when you say rhaka. Rhaka, which is a term of contempt. It'd be like cussing someone out. Or if you say you fool! That when you tear someone down, He says it's almost like you have the heart of a murderer. It's not that you want to murder them, necessarily. This is Bobby talking now, but that you wouldn't mind if they died. You don't care about them. You're done with them. You're over it. You're over them. And you want in the strongest way possible for them to feel some kind of pain because rhaka. Whatever, whatever thing it was. By the way, if we decide to invent a new cuss word in Esperanto, it should be rhaka because you have to do it in back so only cool people can do it.

It's also the way the way you say it

As children, we internalize the words of our parents or parental figures or the people that raise us. This is why especially what you say to children, even children that are strangers, because as an adult they're going to look up to you, is so important. When a father tells a daughter she's beautiful, and a mother tells a son that he loves her, vice versa, when parents, aunts, uncles, grandparents say affirming words, even after those parental figures or parents are gone, their love or contempt remains in the child's heart. So that if you neglect to say good things, or you say negative things, that child will have a lot of work as an adult to overcome those pains and insecurities. Or when you affirm your child, love your child, there's a lot of science to support this, affirm them with words, there's an inner strength that they have that a part of you remains inside the body of that child, who's now an adult long after you die. That the internalized words remain there. What happens is you will find that with every adult you meet, there are certain burns that burn more than others. There are certain compliments that lift up more than others. A big part of loving people that you love, especially people closest to you, is understanding what those are. In psychology, we understand pain not to be single events; I say we, I'm not a psychologist, but I understand this to be true, that pain is like a web where if you touch one part of a painful thing in a person's life, the whole thing shakes. So you'll find that there are certain people who are really sensitive about some things and not about others. Don't judge people for this. Learn to work into them compliments or affirmations where they need it in this way. A lot of people need that. Final word, okay? Ninety percent of what you say to people is tone. All right? Tone. Listen to me, guys. I learned this from my Grandpa Persley, who is a linguist, a Spanish teacher for a long time. When a baby is learning a language, the first thing they learn is not words, but tone. That's why goo goo ga ga in America sounds different than goo goo ga ga in Thailand or Nepal. Babies, when they're learning, they're learning whaaa? Means like what's that. Or huh! Means I'm not going to do that. Right? You can hear it in English. Now if you're watching this in Mandarin, you have no idea what I just said. That's because like when my grandpa was teaching me Spanish, he was teaching me the tone first. So for example, he said when you ask for salt in Spanish, you say it with an English tone: pasa la sal, por favor? That's: can I have the salt, please? He said sounds feminine and weird and like when you ask for salt, you say pasa la sal, por favor. You go down in the tone. This is what he was teaching me in order to speak so that the tone is the first thing you learn. And this doesn't go away. As an adult, the tone, the tone is so, so much more important, actually, believe it if you're in a conflict or you're trying to be smoke on bees or work something out in a team, the tone is really important. I remember Russ telling me like when a situation was really bad back when there were fires and a lot of dramas, he would always want me to go into that, and I didn't always want to do it because he always said I was smoke on bees. And you want to know what the secret is to be smoke on bees to bring the temperature down in the room? It is tone. It's not words. A lot of people are thinking about what am I going to say? What am I going to say? And I always think what do I want them to feel in my words. What do I want people to feel? Do I want them to hear in my tone compassion, understanding, I'm listening to you, I hear you. And this is such a great way, such a better way to communicate. Tone. Think about that. When you go to your girlfriend and you say are you all right? And she's like I'm fine! She is not fine. Okay? She's not fine. When you go to your husband, are you fine? I'm fine! He needs a cookie. He's hungry. All right. Okay. We all know. Final words, just build people up, man. Just build people up. Build people up. Don't be known for the tell it like it is. Don't be that guy, that gal. Don't gossip, don't lie, don't say out loud bad things about other people. Just build people up and it will begin to guide your life. Compliment people, encourage people. If you're inspired by someone, if someone does something that's impressive to you, tell them its impressive! It's a great way to meet people. Say thank you when someone does something nice for you, even if they're supposed to say it, and I know I say that all the time. Friends, build yourself up! It's okay to look in the mirror and encourage yourself. You think I haven't done that before? You think I haven't been running up a hill thinking I'm going to die and just saying this is your hill! 'Bobby, this is your hill! You can get up this hill.' You think I haven't looked at a bill when we were broke and said 'Bobby, you can find a way to pay this.' You think I didn't look at a door of a children's hospital for the 50th time. Excuse me.. there are times you have look in the mirror and you have to say 'you can do this.' There are times when you have to say out loud 'I am a good father.' 'I am a good mother.' 'I am a good friend.' 'I am a good musician, leader, Christian.' If you're running up the hill and you say 'I'm tired,' guess what you're going to feel? If you're looking at the hospital door and you say 'I can't do this anymore,' what are you going to feel? If you're looking at your bills and you say 'I can't pay this,' if you're looking a friend you need to make amends with and you say 'I can't do this,' what are you going to feel?

It's also the way the way you say it

Say over yourself who you want to be. Say the words out loud of where you want to go and that is exactly where you will get. It's okay to build yourself up. We all got to do it sometimes. Amen? Let's pray. Father, we thank you so much for all that you've done for us. And we pray in Jesus' name, Lord that your Holy Spirit would show us the kind of words that we need and can say to each other. Lord, my heart and all of our hearts, we're broken about how our country has been treating one another, how people are treating one another, I believe that it's in large part because of words and tone. Lord, I pray that you'd put deep in our hearts a sense of love for each other and just grace that we would go easy on one another. Help us, Father to use the kind of words that you would use on us, words like I'm proud of you, I'm thankful for you, I forgive you, I love you. We thank you, Lord, you love us. It's in Jesus' name we pray, amen.